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Supplement to

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AUSTRALIA. 16 Feb.—Mr McEwen, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, said that the Government would oppose the admission of Germany and Japan to the International Wheat Council.

20 Feb.—*Pacific Pact*. Mr Spender, Minister for External Affairs, spoke in Sydney about the urgent necessity of forming a Pacific Pact. U.S. co-operation was essential but the basis could be laid by Britain, New Zealand, and other Commonwealth countries.

22 Feb.—Mr McKell, the Governor-General, speaking at the opening of Parliament said that the Government's defence policy was based on Australia's acceptance of 'its full share of co-ordinated British Empire schemes of defence, and on the closest co-operation with the United States'. Measures were being taken to strengthen the defence forces. A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was to be appointed. Strong measures would be taken against 'subversive organizations and individuals, particularly Communists'. The Government were studying means of increasing exports to the dollar area but it was realized that the Australian dollar problem could not be solved except through concerted efforts with the other members of the sterling area.

24 Feb.—*War Crimes*. Mr Menzies, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Government had decided to bring to trial only those Japanese who faced capital charges. The number of such cases pending was seventeen, involving charges against 120 suspects.

1 Mar.—Mr Casey, Minister of Supply, announced a £A1,000 m. five-year plan for national development. The money would come from public and private investment and oversea firms would be welcome.

AUSTRIA. 22 Feb.—Dr Tschadek, Minister of Justice, told Parliament that fifty-six persons who had completed their sentences or received pardons from President Renner were still in prison because the Soviet authorities refused to allow their release.

24 Feb.—Capt. Karpe, U.S. naval attaché in Bucharest and a close friend of Mr Vogeler who was recently convicted of espionage in Hungary, was found dead in a railway tunnel near Salzburg.

BELGIUM. 18 Feb.—*Belgian Congo*. The Cabinet endorsed a ten-year development plan.

19 Feb.—The national committee of the Liberal Party adopted a resolution by 143 votes to 11 advocating the abdication of King Leopold in favour of his son, Prince Baudouin.

22 Feb.—*Defence*. M. Deveze, Defence Minister, told Parliament that the Army was to be increased to 73,792 in 1950.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA. 1 Mar.—*Uganda*. It was learned that a Buganda Government court had sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, eight Africans charged with conspiring against the Kabaka in the disorders of April 1949.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 20 Feb.—Plans to reduce unemployment (*see Great Britain*).

BRITISH WEST AFRICA. 16 Feb.—*Gold Coast*. Dr Nkrumah, leader of the Convention People's Party, said in evidence at his trial that when in England he had made plans to establish a 'West African Soviet Republic', including the Gold Coast.

18 Feb.—*Nigeria*. An unknown assailant escaped after trying to stab Mr Foot, Chief Secretary to the Government.

22 Feb.—*Gold Coast*. Dr Nkrumah and ten other members of the Convention People's Party were found guilty of inciting the public to take part in an illegal strike and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment.

BULGARIA. 18 Feb.—Trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. (*see U.S.S.R.*).

20 Feb.—U.S. Note breaking off diplomatic relations (*see United States*).

21 Feb.—Chargé d'Affaires in Washington informed of rupture in U.S.-Bulgarian relations (*see United States*).

The press published an indictment against five persons accused of 'espionage on behalf of the United States', including two former members of the U.S. Legation staff. Mr Heath was accused of hiding one of them for six months in the Legation, which was described as a 'centre of plots and spying'.

23 Feb.—*U.S.A.* An official statement issued in the press said that the U.S. action in severing relations was 'entirely arbitrary and in complete contradiction with diplomatic practice and international usages'. It repeated the charges against Mr Heath of 'gross intervention' in Bulgarian affairs and claimed that the request for his recall in January was entirely lawful and in accordance with diplomatic practice.

It was learned that the Swiss Government had agreed in principle to represent U.S. interests in Bulgaria and that the Polish Government had agreed to represent Bulgarian interests in the U.S.A.

24 Feb.—Statement by Mr Acheson, and freezing of assets in the U.S.A. (*see United States*).

25 Feb.—Statement by Mr Heath in Belgrade (*see Yugoslavia*).

27 Feb.—U.S. travel ban (*see United States*).

BURMA. 16 Feb.—Parliament unanimously agreed to postpone the general election for a further twelve months on account of the unsettled conditions in the country.

Pakistani loan (*see Pakistan*).

21 Feb.—It was learned that the Government forces had launched a strong military drive against the Karen rebels.

23 Feb.—The British Ambassador, Mr Bowker, addressing the Burma Chamber of Commerce, said that the British Government and people fully appreciated Burma's difficulties but that the recent violent attacks on capitalists, far from helping to solve the problems made their solution more difficult. He also criticized the Government for failing so far to implement their declared policy on relations between labour and capital. Thakin Nu, Prime Minister, said in reply that the Government

BURMA (*continued*)

were striving to work out an amicable relationship between 'capital, shorn of its previous association with imperialism, and a free and independent Burma', but that in this transition period some aspects had been more successful than others. Burma's progress depended on such a relationship. He reaffirmed Burma's need of foreign capital and technical assistance, and said that the Government's declared policy of not aligning themselves with any foreign *bloc* did not exclude a close co-operation with the democracies. He also said that the Government's 'peace-in-one-year' plan was beginning to bear fruit and that their ability to crush the insurgents and restore peace was assured.

28 Feb.—Thakin Nu, speaking at the half-yearly meeting of the Peace-within-one-year Committee (set up in connection with the drive launched on 19 July 1949) said that the achievements of the Central Peace Council had exceeded all expectations and that the attainment of peace within the target date 19 July next, was more than likely. The Council's half-yearly report, which was issued, emphasized the improvement in internal conditions. Many towns had been reoccupied, and the Karen National Defence Organization had been cleared from most parts of Karenni State. Conditions in the Shan States and the Arakan had greatly improved. Communications were being extended day by day. Of the total sum of Rs. 1 m. allocated to the scheme by the Government only Rs.100,000 had so far been spent.

CANADA. 16 Feb.—In the speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament, Lord Alexander, Governor-General, emphasized the importance of ensuring peace through the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and of supporting the burdens imposed on all free nations by the 'cold war'. In the domestic sphere employment and prosperity remained high. The Government's policy aimed at developing new markets and helping oversea customers to increase Canadian earnings.

20 Feb.—*Foreign Trade*. Mr St Laurent, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Government expected an improvement in the balance of payments with the U.S.A. in the current year but that there would have to be a reduction of sales to the rest of the world. It was hoped that more goods would come from sterling sources and fewer from the U.S.A. Only thus could the goal of convertibility be reached.

22 Feb.—Mr Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, told Parliament that a settlement with Japan must be brought about even if the peace conference had to be held with some Powers absent because they refused to accept reasonable conditions. He also spoke of the dangers of Russia's expansionist policy in Asia.

23 Feb.—Mr Howe in Paris (*see France*).

24 Feb.—*Budget*. Estimates totalling \$2,308 m. were tabled in Parliament by Mr Abbot, Minister of Finance. They included \$425 m. for defence—\$42 m. more than in the current year.

*Defence*. Gen. McNaughton, chairman of the Canadian-U.S. joint defence board, speaking in Ottawa said that the safety of North America could only be threatened by a combination of forces in Europe and Asia

which dominated the oceans to the west, the east, and the north of the continent. Such a consolidation did not now exist but there was evidence to show that the Soviet planners had conceived of it as a possible course of action when circumstances were propitious. Canada must continue to work for security by striving for the development of international co-operation both within and outside the United Nations.

27 Feb.—Treaty with U.S.A. *re* Niagara River (*see United States*).

28 Feb.—Suspension of talks on atomic energy (*see United States*).

CEYLON. 20 Feb.—Mr Senanayake, Prime Minister, received Dr Jessup, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large, who was visiting Colombo. Dr Jessup reaffirmed to a press conference that the U.S.A. was not building up a military alliance in Asia. U.S. interest in south-east Asia was partly economic and partly philanthropic. They would only give assistance if asked for it by the Governments concerned, and where the Communist menace was a hindrance to national aspirations. Referring to the Japanese peace treaty he said it should be drafted by all the eleven states on the Far Eastern Commission.

CHILE. 27 Feb.—A new Cabinet took office.

CHINA. 17 Feb.—Mao Tse-tung's speech in Moscow (*see U.S.S.R.*).

23 Feb.—Communist troops landed on Namoa Island, eighteen miles north-east of Swatow.

*Hong Kong*. It was learned that the Hong Kong Supreme Court had decided to remove the injunctions impounding the assets of the two Chinese National Airlines and had dismissed an application by U.S. interests for the appointment of a receiver (*see vol. V. p. 815 and vol. VI p. 4*). The seventy-one aircraft grounded at Hong Kong thus became the property of the Communist Government.

25 Feb.—*Hong Kong*. The U.S. Consul-General protested to the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, against the court decision.

27 Feb.—The U.S. ship *Flying Clipper* was bombed by an unidentified aircraft while anchored at Tsingtao.

1 Mar.—Gen. Chiang Kai-shek resumed the presidency of Nationalist China and also the Supreme Command of the Nationalist armed forces. Comment by Li Tsung-jen (*see United States*).

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 1 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. The deputies resumed discussions. Mr Zarubin (U.S.S.R.) said he was still unable to provide any information about the direct Soviet-Austrian negotiations—a statement which drew protests from the three western delegates. Mr Zarubin said he must consult his Government about a proposal supported by the western delegates that the conference be adjourned until 26 April, and he also rejected a proposal that a drafting committee be set up during the adjournment to carry on the work of the conference.

CYPRUS. 23 Feb.—It was learned that the Archbishop of Cyprus had

CYPRUS (*continued*)

received a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies reaffirming that the British Government regarded the question of union with Greece as closed.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** 18 Feb.—Twenty-six men were convicted of anti-State activities by a court at Jihlava and sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to twenty-five years. One of the accused was acquitted.

*Church and State.* It was learned that a Catholic priest, Father Dechet, had been excommunicated for accepting an appointment by the Government as administrator of a vacant bishopric.

22 Feb.—Four persons found guilty of economic espionage by a State court in Prague were sentenced to prison terms ranging from life to twenty-two years.

24 Feb.—*Church and State.* It was learned that two Catholic priests in Slovakia had been sentenced to twelve and four and a half years' imprisonment respectively for refusing absolution to supporters of the Government.

President Gottwald addressing a meeting of the central committee of the Communist Party accused the western Powers of carrying out a 'concentrated and poisonous' campaign against Czechoslovakia, with the help of 'spies, diversionists, terrorists,' etc., and said they were inciting war hysteria. The U.S.S.R. had so far used atomic energy for peaceful purposes. 'But who can doubt that in the case of need it can use this energy, and not only this one, to repulse an aggressor?'

26 Feb.—Trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. (*see U.S.S.R.*).

27 Feb.—The press reported that Dr Strich, an official in the Ministry of Planning, had been sentenced to life imprisonment on a charge of selling 'an extremely important international treaty' to Britain.

1 Mar.—It was announced that W. Novy, editor of *Rude Pravo* until December last, had been expelled from the Communist Party.

*Church and State.* A Catholic report issued in Prague said that forty-one priests had been arrested since the beginning of the year and that at least 200 were now in prison or in forced labour camps.

**DENMARK.** 23 Feb.—Mr Jensen, the Minister of Justice, was relieved of his duties at his own request following strong attacks by the Communists.

**EGYPT.** 16 Feb.—*Defence.* It was learned that Gen. Mohammed Haidar Pasha, the former Defence Minister, had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

21 Feb.—Mohammed Salah ud-Din, Foreign Minister, told the press that the Government were considering the possibility of submitting to the United Nations their case for the evacuation of British troops. Egypt would continue to press for the unity of the Nile valley. He also said that Egypt was prepared to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute if the two parties welcomed it.



**EIRE.** 16 Feb.—Mr McBride on federation (*see Northern Ireland*).

17 Feb.—It was announced that the Government and the Norwegian Government had decided to establish direct diplomatic relations.

**ERITREA.** 20 Feb.—Two Shifta, believed to have been responsible for the murder of an Italian lorry driver the previous day, were arrested.

21 Feb.—Twenty-two people were killed and many wounded in rioting between Copts and Muslims. The trouble began at Ambaderho, forty miles from Asmara, where a party of Shifta attacked a Muslim funeral. Disorder then spread to Asmara itself.

22 Feb.—The disorders continued in the native section of Asmara and the casualties were believed to have reached forty dead and over a hundred wounded. The acting Police Commissioner, Mr Green, described the situation as tense.

23 Feb.—A total curfew was imposed in the native quarter of Asmara, following continued clashes, involving looting and arson.

24 Feb.—The official casualty list for the three days' rioting was given as 51 killed and 161 wounded. At the request of the Chief Administrator, Brig. Drew, the Coptic Abuna (Bishop) and the Muslim Mufti toured the troubled areas together and appealed to their communities to maintain peace.

27 Feb.—The curfew in Asmara was relaxed following a decrease in the number of incidents. An inquiry opened into the cause of the riots.

A 'ferret force' group composed of British soldiers, police, and armed tribesmen was ambushed by a large band of Shifta about twenty miles east of Asmara. One of the tribesmen was killed and three native policemen wounded. Some of the tribesmen deserted to the bandits.

Statement by Emperor Haile Selassie (*see Ethiopia*).

**ETHIOPIA.** 27 Feb.—The Emperor Haile Selassie condemned the acts of violence in Eritrea as 'the reactivated campaign of incitement with foreign funds from sources which had solemnly assured us of disinterestedness'.

**FINLAND.** 17 Feb.—The Minister of Justice, Mr Suontausta, warned Communist newspapers that he would prosecute them for abuse of the freedom of the press if they continued to attack President Paasikivi.

28 Feb.—U.S.S.R. The Government received a Note from the Soviet Government accusing them of violating the armistice and the mutual friendship treaty and demanding the extradition of 300 'Soviet war criminals'.

1 Mar.—President Paasikivi, who was sworn in for a new term of six years, said that he held fast to his principle of maintaining 'good and trusting' relations with Russia and other countries. He asked Mr Fagerholm to keep his Cabinet in power until a new one was formed.

**FRANCE.** 17 Feb.—*Strikes.* The railway and coal strikes called by the Communist-controlled C.G.T. in protest against working conditions were not generally observed.

FRANCE (*continued*)

18 Feb.—*Strikes*. The coal strike called in the Massif Central was observed on the average by only about 35 per cent of the miners.

19 Feb.—*Communism*. M. Bidault, Prime Minister, speaking at St Etienne condemned political agitation masquerading in the guise of trade unionism. If necessary the Government would seek further legal powers to prevent sabotage.

Twenty-two policemen were reported slightly injured in Paris in clashes with Communists demonstrating against the war in Indo China. Eighty-one arrests were made.

20 Feb.—*Strikes*. Following the refusal of dockers at La Pallice to load a ship with supplies for Indo China, troops were called in to do the work.

22 Feb.—*Communism*. The Government approved the text of a Bill to be submitted to Parliament which modified the penal code so as to make subject to its sanctions any persons taking part in demonstrations and acts of violence aimed at paralysing the work of the defence services or the shipment of military supplies.

*Strikes*. A strike of metal workers for higher wages spread in the Paris area and there was a complete stoppage at the Renault and Rosengart motor works.

A token strike against the Government's taxation policy called by the 'Front Economique', a non-political organization representing the middle class professional organizations, was only partially observed.

23 Feb.—*Strikes*. The number of metal workers on strike in the Paris area rose to nearly 100,000 in some 125 enterprises.

*Canada*. M. Bidault received Mr Howe, the Canadian deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, who was visiting Paris.

24 Feb.—*French India*. The Assembly passed a Bill to hold a referendum in Pondicherry, Yanaon, Mahé, and Karikal on whether the inhabitants wished to join the Indian Republic or remain in the French Union.

26 Feb.—*Strikes*. It was learned that the strikes were beginning to spread to the provinces. In the Paris area the number of metal workers on strike rose to between 120,000 and 150,000.

*Socialist Policy*. The National Council of the Socialist Party, meeting at Puteaux, voted against renewed Socialist participation in the Bidault Government 'under present circumstances' but agreed to give the Government conditional voting support. They also recommended the adoption of an electoral system combining the proportional and the majority principles in a manner that would encourage the coalition of Republican parties.

27 Feb.—*Communism*. Fighting broke out in a Paris suburb between the police and a crowd of Communists who were demonstrating against the departure of troops to Indo China. Twenty-seven policemen were injured. Twenty arrests were made.

28 Feb.—*Strikes*. The strikes continued to spread, referenda being held in industry, the public services, and transport. The two main centres of unrest in the provinces were Marseilles and Lille.



GERMANY. 16 Feb.—*Western Germany*. Discussions on economic policy were held at the Petersberg, between the High Commission and Dr Adenauer, the Federal Chancellor, and five of his Ministers, including Dr Blücher, the Vice-Chancellor and Minister for E.R.P. who had just returned from the U.S.A.

*Neo-Nazism*. The existence of an underground Nazi movement in Bavaria was confirmed by Mr Bolds, the U.S. Land Commissioner.

17 Feb.—*Eastern Germany*. It was announced in Berlin that Herr Zeisser, inspector-general of the People's Police, had been appointed head of the new Ministry of Security.

Herr Grotewohl, Prime Minister, returned to Berlin from his convalescence in the U.S.S.R.

*National Front*. In a letter published in Berlin Cardinal von Preysing, the Catholic Bishop of Berlin, warned priests against becoming members of the Communist-controlled National Front which was trying to spread to the whole of Germany 'the one party dictatorship which is becoming more and more imposed in the German Democratic Republic'. Freedom of faith and conscience were being oppressed in eastern Germany and he had recently had to complain of this to the Government.

*Berlin*. The U.S. authorities announced further obstruction of road traffic between Berlin and the West in 'flagrant violation of international agreement'. During the past week seventeen trucks en route for Berlin had been turned back or confiscated and hundreds of others were 'piled up by Communist harassing tactics'.

18 Feb.—*Berlin*. The western Commandants sent a letter to Gen. Kotikov, the Soviet Commandant, rejecting his statements of 4 February, and protesting again about the calculated interference with traffic between Berlin and the west.

19 Feb.—*Berlin*. U.S. officials said that twenty-two lorries laden with metal had been seized at the Soviet control point outside Berlin during the past twenty-four hours. Some of them were bound for Berlin.

*Unemployment*. It was learned that the total number of unemployed in western Germany was now over two million.

*National Front*. In an article in the Berlin press Herr Nuschke, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union in eastern Germany, criticized Cardinal von Preysing's letter and said he had been misled by his political advisers. The National Front was a movement which transcended party and creed.

20 Feb.—*Berlin*. The western Sector police reported that about ten of the detained lorries had been allowed to proceed.

21 Feb.—*Western Germany*. Figures issued by the British High Commissioner showed that the trade deficit in 1949 was \$1,114 m. compared with \$861 m. in 1948.

*Berlin*. The last of the lorries detained at the Soviet check point were released.

22 Feb.—*Eastern Germany*. Herr Dertinger, Foreign Minister, speaking in Parliament, appealed in the name of the whole German people for the conclusion of a peace treaty. Its main points should be the complete restoration of German independence, the setting aside of the

GERMANY (*continued*)

Occupation Statute and the Ruhr Statute, the withdrawal of all occupation troops, and the protection of German *Kultur*. He denounced the Atlantic Pact as a threat to Germany's existence and said that western Germany was being prepared as a springboard for U.S. imperialism. The western Powers were interfering in Germany's internal affairs and their policy was incompatible with the duties of occupation. He reaffirmed German-Soviet friendship as the keystone of eastern Germany's foreign policy and re-emphasized his Government's acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line as Germany's final frontier in the east.

*Berlin.* The last of four barges laden with scrap metal and bound for Hambourg, which had recently been detained at Wittenberg, were released by the Soviet authorities.

*Trade Agreement.* It was announced that a trade agreement had been concluded in Frankfurt between the Federal Republic and Paraguay providing for an exchange of goods worth \$5,200,000 in both directions.

23 Feb.—*Berlin.* Road traffic with the west was slowed down again at the Soviet check-point at Marienborn.

*E.R.P.* Dr Stikker, the political conciliator of the O.E.E.C., who was visiting Bonn, had discussions with the High Commission and also with Government leaders. Before leaving for the Hague he expressed the opinion that further progress in the economy of western Europe depended on the formation of a clearing union.

British Note to U.S.S.R. *re* British interests in Soviet Zone (*see* U.S.S.R.).

24 Feb.—*War Crimes.* It was learned that the British authorities had reduced the sentence on Field-Marshal von Manstein from eighteen to twelve years.

*Eastern Germany.* Herr Ulbricht, deputy Prime Minister, left Berlin by air for the U.S.S.R.

25 Feb.—*Security.* Dr Adenauer, speaking at Koenigswinter, repeated his fears for the security of western Germany because of the east-west tension and said he had asked the western Allies, through the High Commission, for a clear guarantee of protection. He reaffirmed his opposition to 'German remilitarization in any form'. He also denied reports of the dangers of a radical right-wing underground in western Germany.

*Berlin.* A further four barges taking scrap metal from Berlin to the British Zone and detained at Brandenburg were released by the Soviet authorities.

*Inter-zonal Trade.* It was announced in Berlin that agreement had been reached between the two delegations (*see* p. 107). The Federal Government had promised to complete the deliveries set out in the October agreement, including those of iron and steel, while the east German Government said they would fulfil the agreement 'in general' both in respect of deliveries and orders.

28 Feb.—*Western Germany.* Mr McCloy reaffirmed to a press conference in Frankfurt that the political unification of Germany was a major objective of U.S. policy, and again proposed that all-German

elections be held provided they were on a free and democratic basis in the sense accepted in the West.

*Interzonal Trade.* It was learned that discussions had been resumed in Berlin between representatives of east and west Germany.

1 Mar.—*Western Germany.* Herr Kaiser, Minister for All-German Affairs told a press conference that he welcomed Mr McCloy's statement on the holding of free elections. All political parties must be allowed to take part. But the Federal Government would never agree to discuss arrangements for an election with the existing régime in eastern Germany which was a Russian agency and had not been elected on a democratic basis.

*Eastern Germany.* The Socialist Unity Party issued a statement in Berlin describing Mr McCloy's statement as propaganda, and demanding an all-German plebiscite on German unity, the conclusion of a peace treaty, and the withdrawal of all occupation troops. The National Front was the only movement for German unity.

The Soviet authorities transferred to the east German Government all control of political parties, organizations, and publications.

GREAT BRITAIN. 16 Feb.—*Oil.* Restrictions on U.S. oil imports came into effect in spite of U.S. protests.

17 Feb.—Espionage trial in Hungary (*see Hungary*).

18 Feb.—*U.S.S.R.* Mr Attlee, Prime Minister, speaking in an election broadcast referred to the Government's persistent and unavailing attempts to find a basis for friendly relations with Russia. The question was rendered more acute by the hydrogen bomb, but the machinery of the United Nations was still there ready to be used, and 'we are ready and eager to discuss with Russia . . . and all other nations ways and means of dealing with this menace'.

*E.R.P.* Mr Bevin, Foreign Secretary, speaking at Croydon said the Government were already discussing with the U.S.A. the situation that might arise when Marshall aid ended.

20 Feb.—*British Honduras.* The Colonial Office announced the release of £84,275 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for three new projects to reduce unemployment in British Honduras.

21 Feb.—*Hungary.* Conviction of Mr Sanders (*see Hungary*). A statement issued by the Foreign Office said that Mr Sanders's unnatural 'confession' was clearly the result of a 'sinister method of interrogation'. The fact that he had been held *incommunicado* since his arrest proved that the Hungarian authorities had something to conceal. Two further points must be emphasized:— part of the charge against Mr Sanders rested on his alleged activity when a member of the Allied Control Commission. Hungary's status was then that of a defeated enemy and any allegation of espionage in these circumstances was 'meaningless'. Secondly, the Government denied all allegations that members of the Legation staff had been guilty of improper conduct.

22 Feb.—Hungarian Note *re* consequences of trial (*see Hungary*).

*Elections.* Over 84 per cent of the electorate voted in the general election. The results, with one still outstanding, were: Labour,

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

13,331,682 votes, 315 seats; Conservatives and associates, 12,476,636 votes, 297 seats; Liberals, 2,618,882 votes, 9 seats; Nationalists, 93,421 votes, Irish Nationalists, 2 seats; Communists, 91,815 votes, no seats; Independents and others 112,318 votes, no seats.

25 Feb.—Mr Attlee announced that the Labour Government had decided to continue in office.

26 Feb.—Israeli appeal for arms (*see United States*).

27 Feb.—*Hungary*. It was learned that the Government had replied to the Hungarian Note, stating that they could entertain no requests based on the proceedings at the trial of Mr Sanders.

Indonesian request for extradition of Westerling from Singapore (*see Indonesia*).

28 Feb.—*Government Changes*. The new Cabinet was announced as follows: Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, Mr C. R. Attlee; Lord President of the Council, Mr H. Morrison; Foreign Affairs, Mr Ernest Bevin; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps; Town and Country Planning, Mr Hugh Dalton; Lord Privy Seal, Lord Addison; Chancellor Duchy of Lancaster, Lord Alexander; Lord Chancellor, Lord Jowitt; Home Secretary, Mr Chuter Ede; Defence, Mr E. Shinwell; Labour, Mr G. Isaacs; Health, Mr A. Bevan; Agriculture, Mr Tom Williams; Education, Mr G. Tomlinson; President of the Board of Trade, Mr Harold Wilson; Colonies, Mr James Griffiths; Scotland, Mr Hector McNeil; Commonwealth Relations, Mr P. Gordon Walker. Other Ministers not in the Cabinet included:—First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Hall; Secretary for War, Mr John Strachey; Secretary for Air, Mr Arthur Henderson; Economic Affairs (a new Ministry created to help relieve the work of the Chancellor of the Exchequer), Mr Hugh Gaitskell; Food, Mr Maurice Webb.

Suspension of talks on atomic energy (*see United States*).

1 Mar.—*Atomic Energy*. Dr Fuchs (*see p. 107*), an ex-alien, now a British subject, pleaded guilty before the Central Criminal Court to offences under the Official Secrets Act. On four occasions—in England in 1943 and 1947, and in the U.S.A. in 1944 and 1945—he had given information on atomic energy to agents of the Soviet Government. He was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment—the maximum penalty.

*Hungary*. A Note was received from the Hungarian Government criticizing the British refusal to comply with their requests (which included the question of a resumption of trade relations.)

GREECE. 23 Feb.—Agreements signed with Spain (*see Spain*).

27 Feb.—Part of the Army broadcasting station at Athens was destroyed by an explosion. No casualties were reported.

HUNGARY. 17 Feb.—*Espionage Trial*. The trial began in Budapest of Mr Vogeler, an American director of the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. and the Standard Electric Co., and Mr Sanders, a British employee of the two firms, together with five Hungarians. The

proceedings were open to the public and were attended by representatives of the British and U.S. Legations. Mr Sanders pleaded guilty. He said that from 1945-7 he had worked in Budapest as an intelligence officer in the British military mission. Later on instructions from British Intelligence he had returned to Hungary as a representative of Standard Electric to carry on intelligence work under the directions of the British Legation. His immediate superior was Mr Vogeler and he had contacted several members of the British and U.S. Legations. The British Council was also engaged in espionage. His work consisted mainly in obtaining information about Soviet and Hungarian troops and about economic and political matters, and in organizing sabotage in the production of equipment for the U.S.S.R. Two of the Hungarian defendants, I. Geiger and Z. Rado also pleaded guilty and described their activities under the orders of U.S. and British Intelligence.

18 Feb.—*Espionage Trial*. Mr Vogeler pleaded guilty and described his activities as an intelligence officer in Vienna, which was the headquarters for U.S. espionage in south-east Europe, and in Budapest. The chiefs of the Standard Electric were closely connected with the U.S. War Department and its directors included Col. Behn, a close friend of President Truman, Mr Acheson, and Mr Marshall. Its representatives in Europe had to be approved by the U.S. joint Chiefs of Staff. His work in Budapest consisted mainly of ensuring that production of Standard Electric was kept as low as possible, gathering information about the Hungarian Army, reporting on economic and political developments, and also on oil and uranium deposits, and recruiting technical experts for service in the U.S.A. He had worked closely with the Budapest Legation but had received his orders direct from Vienna or Washington. The Standard Oil Company was also connected with U.S. espionage. The three other Hungarian accused pleaded guilty.

20 Feb.—*Espionage Trial*. After the hearing of witnesses and statements by the public prosecutor and counsel for the defence, the defendants were allowed a last word. Mr Sanders and Mr Vogeler both reaffirmed their guilt and pleaded for clemency on the grounds that they had made a full confession. Mr Vogeler added that he had been treated correctly and had made his confession freely and without duress.

21 Feb.—*Espionage Trial*. All the defendants were found guilty. Mr Vogeler and Mr Sanders were sentenced to fifteen and thirteen years imprisonment respectively. Two of the Hungarian accused received the death sentence and the others received prison terms of ten and five years. British and U.S. comment (*see Great Britain and United States*).

23 Feb.—Notes were sent to the British and U.S. Governments requesting a reduction in their respective Legation staffs—which were out of proportion to the size of the Hungarian Legations in London and Washington, and asking for the withdrawal of the British and U.S. officials mentioned in the trial. Both Governments were asked in view of the alleged guilt of Mr Sanders and Mr Vogeler to reconsider the measures they had taken against Hungary in protest against the trial.

24 Feb.—Statement by Mr Acheson, and freezing of assets in the U.S.A. (*see United States*).

HUNGARY (*continued*)

26 Feb.—*Government Changes*. It was announced that Mr Kossa, Minister of Finance, and Mr Ortutay, Minister of Education, had resigned and had been succeeded in their respective offices by Mr Olt, a Communist and secretary of the presidium of the People's Republic, and Mr Darvas, a member of the National Peasant Party.

27 Feb.—The record of the Sanders-Vogeler trial was published as a White Book. British Note (*see Great Britain*).

1 Mar.—Reply to British Note (*see Great Britain*).

INDIA. 17 Feb.—The Prime Minister of Nepal arrived in Delhi for a week's visit.

19 Feb.—Statement on tripartite talks (*see South Africa*).

23 Feb.—*Communal Riots*. Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, told Parliament that the recent riots were a 'major tragedy' and that those in East Bengal were far more serious than those in West Bengal. During the past two months fifty people had been killed in West Bengal, 256 injured, and about 1,500 arrested. In East Bengal 600 people were estimated killed in Dacca alone. The Pakistani Prime Minister had rejected his (Mr Nehru's) suggestion that joint fact-finding missions should tour the troubled areas and that the two Prime Ministers should visit them together, declaring that the situation was now normal. If Pakistan failed to respond India might have to adopt other methods.

U.S.A. Dr Jessup, the U.S. Ambassador-at-large, told a press conference in Delhi, where he had arrived the previous day, that U.S. policy in the Far East aimed at supporting the independent development of peoples threatened primarily by the expanding imperialism of Russia. He denied that the U.S.A. was interested in securing bases in Nepal or Kashmir.

25 Feb.—*Communal Riots*. A total strike was observed in Calcutta in protest against the alleged atrocities in East Bengal. At least five Muslims were killed and fifteen injured in the city in attacks by Hindus.

Parliament passed a Bill, valid for one year, giving the Government wide powers of arrest and detention without trial. Sardar Patel, deputy Prime Minister, described it as emergency legislation to combat subversive activities.

26 Feb.—*Communal Riots*. Ten persons were killed in riots in a suburb of Calcutta following a rumoured attack on refugees travelling from East Bengal.

27 Feb.—Statement on riots by Mr Ali Khan (*see Pakistan*).

28 Feb.—Dr Matthai, Finance Minister, told Parliament in his Budget speech that inflationary tendencies had been arrested and prices brought down. He announced certain reductions in taxation.

1 Mar.—*Communism*. Sardar Patel told Parliament that there had recently been an increase in Communist-inspired acts of violence in the Telengana district of Hyderabad State. About 3,000 persons had been arrested there in the past fifteen months.

INDO CHINA. 19 Feb.—It was learned from French sources that



French and Viet Nameese forces had recaptured Thaibinh, in the lower delta of the Red River, and that Viet Minh forces had taken Folu, an important military post on the Red River, about twenty miles south-east of Laokai.

21 Feb.—Recognition of Ho Chi-minh (*see Yugoslavia*).

27 Feb.—It was learned that French and Viet Nameese troops had been sent to the assistance of a tribe in central Viet Nam which had rebelled against the Ho Chi-minh Government.

28 Feb.—Recognition of Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos (*see Thailand*).

INDONESIA. 16 Feb.—Shairel Saleh, leader of the Tan Malakka Communists in West Java, was arrested in Jakarta.

19 Feb.—It was learned that Abdul Malik, head of the State of South Sumatra, had announced his readiness to resign in favour of the central Government following the example of his colleagues in East Java, West Java, and Madura.

It was announced that 12,270 Dutch troops had been repatriated since the transfer of sovereignty.

25 Feb.—Arrest of Westerling in Singapore (*see Malaya*).

27 Feb.—It was learned that the Government had submitted a Note to the British Embassy requesting the extradition of Westerling who was wanted on charges of murder, manslaughter, assault, and breaking the peace.

Dutch statement on Westerling's arrest (*see Netherlands*).

IRAQ. 16 Feb.—Tawfiq al'Suweidi, Prime Minister, in a policy statement to Parliament, said that the Government would work to strengthen the country's military organization, improve relations with the Arab League, and attempt to solve the Palestine problem to the best interests of Arab countries. He also said that it was planned to build an oil refinery in Iraq.

ITALY. 18 Feb.—The C.G.I.L., the Communist-led trade union federation, opened an all-party economic conference in Rome. It was attended by two Cabinet Ministers—Signor Campilli (Christian Democrat) and Signor Lamalfa (Republican). Signor di Vittorio, leader of the C.G.I.L., put forward again his plan for combating unemployment and increasing production proposed the previous autumn, and suggested methods of investment.

*Trade Agreement.* A \$16 m. trade agreement with Portugal was signed in Rome to come into effect immediately.

23 Feb.—The retrial of the former Marshal Graziani, whose civilian trial was suspended in February 1949, opened before a military court in Rome.

27 Feb.—*Land Reform.* Landless peasants seized nearly 50,000 acres of private estates in the Catanzaro, Crotone, and Nicastro areas of Calabria.

1 Mar.—Signor de Gasperi, Prime Minister, winding up the Senate debate on the motion of confidence, made friendly references to Britain

ITALY (*continued*)

as the home of parliamentary democracy. He reaffirmed the Government's claim to the Free Territory of Trieste, based on the British, French, and U.S. declaration and said that the Yugoslav Foreign Minister's recent claim (on 26 February) was 'absolutely unacceptable'. Turning to economic affairs he said that the recent C.G.I.L. conference, while propounding their own plan, had completely ignored the Government's investment plan and the other projects now under way. He ended with a solemn warning to the Fascists (M.S.I.). The motion was passed by 176 votes to 110, with 10 abstentions.

JAPAN. 20 Feb.—Dr Jessup on peace treaty (*see Ceylon*).

22 Feb.—Mr Pearson on need for peace treaty (*see Canada*).

24 Feb.—Australian decision on war crimes trials (*see Australia*).

26 Feb.—Gen. MacArthur announced that Japan would henceforward be allowed to join in international agreements and in 'technical' conferences, provided the other nations concerned were willing.

1 Mar.—Col. Hodgson, British Commonwealth member of the Allied Council, said at a meeting of the Council, that a new banking monopoly had arisen in Japan. Gen. MacArthur might have dissolved the Zaibatsu but eight banks now controlled 80 per cent of the industrial, financial, and economic life of the country. Col. Hodgson was ruled out of order by Mr Sebald the U.S. chairman.

KOREA. 1 Mar.—Dr Syngman Rhee, President of South Korea, spoke optimistically in Seoul about the prospects of Korean unification, and gave an assurance that the Communist-dominated north would be recovered.

MALAYA. 16 Feb.—Two police were killed and two wounded in a bandit ambush near Mengkuang in Pahang.

17 Feb.—A British civil liaison officer attached to the security forces in the Raus district of Pahang was killed by bandits.

19 Feb.—Bukit Mertajam in Wellesley province was placed under curfew following the murder of a Chinese detective.

21 Feb.—Sir Patrick McKerron, the officer administering the Government of Singapore, told the Legislative Council that Singapore police assistance to the Federation would be increased in anti-bandit month. He also said that British recognition of the Communist Government in China meant that they were ready to treat that Government on a basis of equality. It did not mean that they would allow it to interfere with Malayan affairs.

23 Feb.—Bandits attacked a police station in a Johore village, thirty-five miles from Muar, killing thirteen constables, six village guards, and two women and two children of police families. The village itself was unmolested.

25 Feb.—Indonesia. 'Turk' Westerling, commander of a group of insurgent forces in Indonesia, was arrested in Singapore and charged with having entered the colony without a permit.

Terrorists made an unsuccessful attempt to derail a train near the Thai border.

26 Feb.—A bandit force attacked the police station at Ayer Bemban, in Johore, but were held off until reinforcements arrived.

Four terrorists were killed and five wounded in an operation in the Kajang area of Selangor.

The Malayan People's anti-bandit month was launched, 350,000 people having volunteered for mobilization. All army, police, and Government leave was stopped.

28 Feb.—Indonesia. The British authorities in Singapore ordered that Westerling be detained pending deportation.

1 Mar.—Bandits derailed a passenger train between Gemas, in Johore, and Triang, in Pahang. In a subsequent fight with troops and police on the train one bandit was killed and three wounded.

NEPAL. 17 Feb.—Prime Minister in Delhi (*see India*).

NETHERLANDS. 19 Feb.—Dr Drees, Prime Minister, speaking to the foreign press said that the balance of payments had shown a marked improvement in 1949 and that the dollar deficit had been halved. Many import restrictions had been lifted and trade with Germany was developing satisfactorily. The progressive increase of the population, however, necessitated further industrialization and also an outlet through emigration.

27 Feb.—Indonesia. Dr van Maarseveen, Minister for Union Affairs, speaking to the press, expressed satisfaction at Westerling's arrest and said that his activities had done more harm to the Netherlands than to Indonesia.

NORTHERN IRELAND. 16 Feb.—Mr McBride, Minister for External Affairs in the Irish Republic, speaking at Dungannon in the election campaign proposed a federal scheme 'for a time at least' as a solution of the Irish question, with 'ample safeguards to areas where certain fears and prejudices exist'.

NORWAY. 17 Feb.—Establishment of direct diplomatic relations with Eire (*see Eire*).

21 Feb.—*Atlantic Pact*. Parliament unanimously approved ratification of the mutual aid agreement with the U.S.A.

PAKISTAN. 16 Feb.—It was announced that the Government had granted a £500,000 loan to Burma.

19 Feb.—Treaty of friendship with Persia (*see Persia*).

Statement on tripartite talks (*see South Africa*).

21 Feb.—Reports reaching Karachi said that 40,000 Muslim refugees had fled to East Bengal following riots in Assam on 13 and 14 February.

23 Feb.—Pandit Nehru on communal riots (*see India*).

27 Feb.—*Communal Rioting*. Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister, commenting at a press conference on Pandit Nehru's statement, said

PAKISTAN (*continued*)

that Indian propaganda had deliberately mutilated the facts. The riots had started in West Bengal as a result of open incitement and it was only later that East Bengal had retaliated. He gave the total casualties in East Bengal as 221 killed and 276 injured, and said that over 35,000 Muslim refugees from the rioting in Assam and West Bengal had crossed the border into East Bengal. He had rejected the Indian suggestion for a joint fact-finding commission because it 'would become a fault-finding mission'. The only remedy for communal rioting throughout the sub-continent would be 'an honest acceptance of the fact of partition'—by the Hindu leaders. 'We have no aggressive intentions towards India but if India wants war she will find us fully prepared.'

28 Feb.—Armed raiders killed eight people and wounded seventeen when they attacked the Assam mail train near Santahar, East Bengal.

The Government denied reports that Pakistan was concentrating troops along the Indian border.

1 Mar.—*Persia*. The Shah of Persia arrived in Karachi on a sixteen-day State visit.

PALESTINE. 21 Feb.—The management of the Haifa oil refineries announced that the concern was to be put on a caretaking basis until supplies of crude oil were resumed.

26 Feb.—Israeli appeal for arms (*see United States*).

PARAGUAY. 22 Feb.—Trade agreement with western Germany (*see Germany*).

PERSIA. 19 Feb.—*Pakistan*. It was learned that a treaty of friendship had been signed with Pakistan.

27 Feb.—*Government Changes*. The new Government which was announced included the following Ministers: Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Saed; Foreign Affairs, Mr Hussein Ala; Defence, Gen. Morteza Yazdanpanah; Interior, Mr Ebrahim Zand; Justice, Dr Mohammed Sajadi.

1 Mar.—Shah's visit to Pakistan (*see Pakistan*).

POLAND. 17 Feb.—*Church and State*. It was learned that the Bishop of Danzig had been placed under house arrest, charged with anti-State activities.

18 Feb.—Restrictions were announced on the movements of U.S. air, army, and naval attachés.

27 Feb.—*Church and State*. The Government issued a statement accusing the Catholic hierarchy of abusing the authority of the Church and religious sentiment for political action hostile to the State.

PORTUGAL. 18 Feb.—Trade agreement with Italy (*see Italy*).

RUMANIA. 17 Feb.—Trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. (*see U.S.S.R.*).

A military court sentenced six people to terms of imprisonment ranging from eighteen months to fifteen years for 'plotting against the security of the State'.

24 Feb.—Statement by Mr Acheson, and freezing of assets in the U.S.A. (*see United States*).

SARAWAK. 16 Feb.—A court at Sibu sentenced to death nine Malays on charges of abetting the murder of the Governor, Mr Stewart, on 3 December. The tenth accused was acquitted.

SOMALILAND, ITALIAN. 20 Feb.—The first Italian troops disembarked at Mogadishu.

SOUTH AFRICA. 16 Feb.—*Native Policy*. Dr Jansen, Minister for Native Affairs, described as 'a death-knell for the white race in South Africa' a motion defeated in the Senate calling for eventual full citizenship for non-Europeans. *Apartheid* did not mean that all Africans would be sent into reserves. It meant 'the development of the Africans along lines founded on what is their own'.

Ten Africans were killed and a number injured in a tribal clash near Mhlangana in Natal.

18 Feb.—*Native Policy*. Dr Malan, Prime Minister, speaking at Paarl, said that he proposed to set up a Ministry of Coloured Affairs, staffed mainly with coloured civil servants.

18 Feb.—*Disorders*. A European police sergeant and an African were killed and several Africans wounded when police intervened in a fight among Basutos in Benoni location, thirty miles from Johannesburg.

19 Feb.—*Asians in South Africa*. A joint statement on the results of the recent discussions with India and Pakistan said that the delegations had agreed to recommend to their Governments a round-table conference to explore all possibilities of settling the dispute.

20 Feb.—*Registration*. Mr Dönges, Minister of the Interior, presented the Population Registration Bill to Parliament. It provided for the registration, after the 1951 census, of all South Africans over the age of sixteen and their classification into one of three groups—European, coloured, or native.

SPAIN. 23 Feb.—*Trade Agreement*. Agreements for the revival of trade between Spain and Greece to the value of \$2 m. on either side, and providing for the settlement of claims pending since the Spanish civil war, were signed in Madrid.

SWEDEN. 27 Feb.—Vice-Admiral Stromback, C.-in-C. of the Navy, appealed for an increase in the Navy's appropriations, declaring that the Soviet Baltic fleet was far in excess of normal defensive requirements.

THAILAND. 28 Feb.—*Indo China*. The Government decided to recognize the Bao Dai Government in Viet Nam and the Governments of Cambodia and Laos.

TRIESTE. 26 Feb.—Statement by Mr Kardelj (*see Yugoslavia*).

1 Mar.—Statement by Signor de Gasperi (*see Italy*).

TURKEY. 23 Feb.—It was learned that the Grand National Assembly had passed the new electoral law by 341 votes to 10.

## UNITED NATIONS

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

16 Feb.—The report for 1949 which was published recorded generally high levels of economic activity and employment, thanks largely to increased European production. World food production was 20 to 25 per cent greater than in 1937 and total industrial production nearly 40 per cent greater than in that year. But the virtual completion of post-war reconstruction provided a setting against which the long-term problems of full employment, economic development, and the equilibrium of international trade and finance needed to be reassessed and co-ordinated. The 'chronic unbalance' of international trade was largely due to the lack of American demand. In 1949 U.S. purchases abroad had steadily declined while exports were running at well over double the pre-war volume.

27 Feb.—*Forced Labour*. Miss Sender, representing the American Federation of Labour, rejected Soviet attempts to justify their forced labour system as a form of occupational therapy, and gave alleged documentary evidence to show that the forced labour projects controlled by the M.V.D. (secret police) were of such major importance as to form part of Soviet economic planning. Since the end of the war all the heavy work on atomic production was done by forced labour. Her statements were supported by Mr Willard Thorp, the U.S. delegate.

28 Feb.—*Forced Labour*. Mr Corley Smith (Britain) gave fresh evidence about the Soviet camps. He again asked the U.S.S.R. to allow a U.N. commission to investigate the main centres in Siberia and Central Asia and said that if they agreed the British Government would give equal powers of inspection to such a commission in all territories under their control. In the absence of the Soviet and Czech delegates, in protest against the presence of the Chinese Nationalist delegate, the Council decided to postpone further action until its next winter session.

1 Mar.—*Under-developed Areas*. Mr Thorp (U.S.A.) spoke to the Council of the continued U.S. interest in the world's backward areas and urged that greater attention be given to the possibilities of investment from non-dollar sources.

### GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

23 Feb.—A meeting of the contracting parties opened in Geneva. The German Federal Government was invited to send observers.

### INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

16 Feb.—Hearings began, in accordance with a General Assembly motion, on the question whether the Assembly could over-rule vetoes by the Security Council on the admission of new members.



28 Feb.—*Balkans Peace Treaties*. Hearings began on the case concerning the interpretation of the peace treaties with Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution of 22 October 1949.

## SECRETARIAT

17 Feb.—*Atomic Energy*. Mr Trygve Lie, the Secretary General, commenting at a press conference on Mr Churchill's call for another conference with the U.S.S.R. and on other proposals for renewed discussions on atomic energy, said that he always supported negotiation among the great Powers.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

24 Feb.—*Kashmir*. Discussions were held on a joint resolution by Cuba and Norway, supported by Britain and the U.S.A., calling on India and Pakistan to demilitarize the area within five months in preparation for the plebiscite. The resolution was largely based on the McNaughton proposals but left the parties full freedom to modify them by agreement. A U.N. representative would be appointed in place of the existing commission.

1 Mar.—Mr Trygve Lie, U.N. Secretary General, announced that he had asked members of the Council to consider the feasibility of calling special meetings of the Council which might be attended by Foreign Ministers or other delegates of Ministerial rank.

## TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

16 Feb.—*Togoland*. The report of the visiting mission which was published spoke of the serious danger of a growing nationalism. This could best be averted by some form of union between the two Togolands.

20 Feb.—*Tanganyika*. The report on Tanganyika which was adopted congratulated Britain on the 'steady progress made in all fields of administration' in the territory. Its recommendations included:—the introduction of an electoral law, the adoption of measures by which the people of the territory could be consulted; consideration of increased African representation in the executive, legislative, and provincial councils, the elimination of racially discriminatory legislation; and adoption of measures aimed at giving the Africans a greater share in the economic activities of the territory.

*Jerusalem*. Mr Roq (Jordan) told the Council that his Government could accept no plan whatever for the internationalization of the city. Mr Eban (Israel) said that while Israel could not accept the U.N. plan she would agree to international control of the Holy Places themselves as distinct from any territorial control, and that she would be prepared for the United Nations to be represented in Israel for this purpose. Such an arrangement must depend on the active consent of the population of Jerusalem. The delegates of Iraq and Syria strongly criticized Israel's attitude.

21 Feb.—*Jerusalem*. Mr Roq rejected Mr Eban's proposal for direct

U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (*continued*)

U.N. responsibility for the Holy Places, declaring that King Abdullah had accepted the armistice boundaries but that within the territory under his control he would tolerate no outside interference whatsoever.

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

21 Feb.—Rumania's withdrawal from the organization was announced in Geneva.

UNITED STATES. 16 Feb.—*Strikes*. Coal rationing was ordered throughout New York State.

President Truman told a press conference that the Government were always ready for peace negotiations and that the door was open for any head of State who wished to come to Washington.

President Truman speaking as head of the Democratic Party rejected proposals to cut expenditure on defence and foreign aid and accused his political opponents of supporting the mistaken view that money could be saved by going backward. In the long run false economy would endanger not only their pocket-books but their lives.

*E.R.P.* Mr Hoffman, the E.C.A. Administrator, speaking in New York said that the E.C.A. had worked out specific proposals for submission to Congress giving 'considerably more power' to the programme for integrating European economy. Europe must 'accomplish in twenty-five months what might, under less compelling circumstances, easily require twenty-five years'. Team-work and emergency measures were needed for the essential task of increasing European exports to the dollar area.

British restrictions on oil imports (*see Great Britain*).

17 Feb.—Espionage trial in Budapest (*see Hungary*).

*Strikes*. Mr Lewis, president of the United Mineworkers' Union, ordered the miners to return to work forthwith.

*Far East*. State Department and defence officials said that plans were being considered for making arms and ammunition available to Indo-China, Burma, Siam, and Indonesia.

20 Feb.—*Bulgaria*. The Government informed the Bulgarian Government in a Note delivered in Sofia of their decision to break off diplomatic relations owing to Bulgaria's refusal to withdraw her demand for the recall of the U.S. Minister, Mr Heath (*see page 67*). The treatment accorded to the U.S. Legation in Sofia 'left no doubt' that the Bulgarian Government did not accept even the minimum standards of international practice'. A statement accompanying the Note accused the Bulgarian Government of permitting the torture and killing of Bulgarian employees at the U.S. Legation.

*Strikes*. The miners failed to return to work.

Dr Jessup's statements in Ceylon (*see Ceylon*).

21 Feb.—*Hungary*. Conviction of Mr Vogeler (*see Hungary*). The State Department described the trial as an extension of 'political persecution' and said that neither Mr Vogeler's alleged confession nor his self-incriminating testimony could be accepted. The International

Telegraph and Telephone Corporation said in a statement that they had proof of the complete falsity of the charges.

*E.R.P.* Mr Hoffman and Mr Acheson appeared before a joint session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee to give their opening testimony on the Administration proposals for the third year of E.R.P.—the year beginning 1 July 1950. Mr Hoffman asked for \$2,950 m. new funds together with \$150 m. left over from the current year's appropriations. Of this total a sum of \$600 m. would be withheld from the allocations to individual countries and used for financing a European payments union, and for helping those countries which co-operated fully in the plan for liberalized trade and payments. Reviewing the economic situation in Europe he said that 'spectacular' progress had been made in the field of increased industrial production but that the participating countries could not become self-supporting until the dollar gap had been closed. This could be done at once if exports from the dollar area to Europe were reduced to the level of European earnings. But such a drastic reduction would have serious repercussions both in the European and the U.S. economies; the U.S.A. must therefore help Europe to earn more dollars. On the question of European integration, he said that the record so far was not bad but not good enough. He was disappointed but not discouraged. Mr Acheson fully supported Mr Hoffman and said it was essential that the full appropriations should be voted if the Kremlin's plans were to be frustrated. But the appropriation of funds was not enough: there must also be readjustments of U.S. economic policies.

Mr Hoffman later told a meeting of the Senate Committee that he had not been approached by a single European country for aid after 1952.

*Communism.* Mr Acheson denied charges made in the Senate that Communists were employed in the State Department.

*Bulgaria.* The State Department informed the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires of the Government's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Bulgaria. Further espionage charges in Sofia (*see Bulgaria*).

22 Feb.—*Foreign Policy.* President Truman, speaking at Alexandria, Virginia, denounced Communism's 'threat of force' which could only be countered by the combined moral and material strength of the free world. On the subject of atomic weapons he reaffirmed his support of the Baruch plan but said that the U.S.A. would accept any other plan that provided an 'effective workable system'. He then listed four points as a 'practical way to move towards peace':—The North Atlantic Treaty and the mutual defence assistance programme; completion of the Marshall Plan and adoption of the 'Point Four' programme; reduction of trade barriers through the reciprocal trade agreements programme; and creation of the international organization to increase world trade.

23 Feb.—*E.R.P.* Mr Acheson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that any payments agreement made by the O.E.E.C. would not run counter to the principles of Bretton Woods. The sterling area would necessarily be linked with such a currency union but would not be a member of it.

*Far East.* Mr Acheson also told the committee that the Government

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

proposed giving economic aid to south-east Asia only if it were asked for by the countries themselves. He reaffirmed that the U.S.A. would support such regional *blocs* as might arise spontaneously in south-east Asia.

Dr Jessup in Delhi (*see India*).

Hungarian Note *re* consequences of trial (*see Hungary*).

Bulgarian statements on rupture of diplomatic relations, and arrangements for protection of U.S. and Bulgarian interests (*see Bulgaria*).

*Atomic Energy*. President Truman told a press conference that he saw no reason for a new approach to Russia on international control of atomic weapons.

24 Feb.—*South-east Europe*. Mr Acheson told the press that measures taken by the U.S.A. to meet the situation created in certain east European States were not directed against the peoples of those countries, who were not responsible for the unprincipled actions of their Governments and whose welfare was the concern of the U.S. Government. The Communist leaders of these nations had ruthlessly used their power to frighten their own populations and to take action against the diplomats and citizens of other countries, contrary to long-established international usage. The Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania besides making it increasingly difficult for the U.S.A. to maintain diplomatic missions and to give any protection to U.S. citizens and interests had also systematically denied human rights to their own peoples in violation of the peace treaties.

It was announced that orders had been issued freezing the bank accounts and other assets in the U.S.A. of citizens of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania because of delays in the payment of U.S. claims against these States.

Death of naval attaché in Bucharest (*see Austria*).

*Austrian Peace Treaty*. Mr Acheson reaffirmed to the press the Soviet Government's responsibility for the delay in concluding the treaty.

*Strikes*. A Federal Judge ordered the United Mineworkers Union to stand trial on charges of contempt for disobeying the injunction to end the coal strike.

25 Feb.—Statement by Mr Heath in Belgrade (*see Yugoslavia*).

26 Feb.—*Israel*. Diplomatic officials reported that Israel had appealed to the U.S.A. and Britain for arms and military equipment.

27 Feb.—Opening of diplomatic conference at Laurenço Marques (*see U.S. Conference on Africa*).

A treaty with Canada relating to the uses of the water of the Niagara River was signed in Washington.

*Bulgaria*. The State Department banned private travel by U.S. citizens in Bulgaria.

Attack on U.S. ship at Tsingtao (*see China*).

*E.R.P.* Dr Stikker, political conciliator of the O.E.E.C., arrived in New York.

28 Feb.—*Atomic Energy*. It was learned that the tripartite discussions with Britain and Canada which had been proceeding since September

had been suspended pending a review by the three Governments of all aspects of their security arrangements.

**Strikes.** It was learned that new curtailments of industrial operations because of coal shortages had increased the number made idle by the coal strike to over 200,000 in addition to 372,000 striking miners.

**E.R.P.** President Truman received Dr Stikker accompanied by Mr Hoffman and Mr Harriman.

**1 Mar.—Atomic Energy.** Senator McMahon, chairman of the Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, proposed in the Senate that: (1) the U.S.A. should begin talks with its North Atlantic Pact allies to formulate a new approach to atomic peace; (2) the U.N. General Assembly should meet in Moscow; and (3) the Council of the North Atlantic Pact should meet immediately to formulate a concrete peace programme.

**Yugoslavia.** The Export-Import Bank granted a second loan of \$20 m. to Yugoslavia.

**China.** Gen. Li Tsung-jen, acting President of the Chinese Nationalist Government, who was undergoing medical treatment in New York, said that it was 'fantastic beyond belief' that Gen Chiang Kai-shek had made himself President without an election, and that he, Gen. Li, was preparing to return to China to challenge his position.

**U.S. CONFERENCE ON AFRICA.** 27 Feb.—A four-day conference of U.S. Government officials and diplomats opened at Lourenço Marques, Portuguese East Africa, under the chairmanship of Mr McGhee, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and African Affairs. Representatives attended from Washington, London, Cairo, Ethiopia, Liberia, South Africa, and the British, French, Belgian, and Portuguese colonies in Africa.

**U.S.S.R.** 17 Feb.—**China.** Mao Tse-tung, speaking in Moscow before leaving with his delegation for home, expressed profound satisfaction with the treaty, which sealed the unity of the Chinese and Soviet peoples. During their stay in the U.S.S.R. they had seen the Socialist system at work, and its obvious success had confirmed their conviction that it should serve as a model for the construction of China.

**Trade Agreement.** A one-year agreement with Rumania was signed in Moscow providing for a 30 per cent increase in trade between the two countries.

**18 Feb.—Trade Agreement.** A one-year trade agreement was signed in Moscow with Bulgaria. It called for a 20 per cent increase over the previous year's trade between the two countries.

**23 Feb.**—The Government received a Note from the British Government asking them to make effective the obligation they had accepted in an earlier Note to protect British interests and property in the eastern Zone of Germany. So far, the Note said, these interests had been entirely disregarded and British representations to the Soviet authorities in Berlin appeared to have been ignored.

**25 Feb.—Defence.** It was announced that a Ministry of the Navy had

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been created separate from the Ministry of the Armed Forces, and that the latter was to be renamed Ministry of the Army. Admiral I. Yumashev had been appointed Minister of the Navy.

26 Feb.—*Trade Agreement*. It was learned that a trade agreement had been signed in Moscow with Czechoslovakia.

28 Feb.—*Monetary Changes*. It was announced that the rouble had been revalued and that from 1 March the exchange rates would be transferred from a dollar to a gold basis. The rouble's new value would be 0.222168 grammes of gold, with four to the U.S. dollar (previously 5.3) and 11.2 to the pound sterling (14.84). Price reductions of food, clothing, tobacco, and other commodities were also decreed.

Note to Finland *re* war criminals (*see Finland*).

VATICAN. 28 Feb.—The Holy Office issued a document laying down the limits within which Catholics would be allowed to confer with members of other denominations on questions of faith and other matters of common concern to Christians. It made clear that there could be for Catholics no yielding on doctrinal principles involving the infallibility of the Catholic Church. All conferences on questions of faith and morals remained subject to the instruction issued by the Holy Office on 5 June 1948. But this instruction did not apply to 'mixed assemblies of Catholics and non-Catholics in which, without entering into faith and morals, there is discussion of the manner in which both parties, uniting their strength, may defend the fundamental principles of natural law and of the Christian religion against the enemies of God who are now banded together, or discussion of the re-establishment of social order'.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. 23 Feb.—A three-day meeting of the Executive Committee in Geneva ended with a unanimous appeal to all Governments to make a new effort for peace.

YUGOSLAVIA. 18 Feb.—Marshal Tito, speaking at Titovo Uzice, said that the loans requested from the International Bank and from the U.S.A. had not yet been received and that 'difficulties' were being made. Yugoslavia would rather postpone the five-year plan than accept political strings to dollar loans and trade agreements. No pressure either from east or west would turn her from her Socialist principles or induce her to join in any *bloc*. But she would co-operate in the economic sphere with any one who was ready to do so on an equal footing.

19 Feb.—The U.S. Ambassador in Belgrade denied that any political conditions were attached either to the financial aid already extended by the U.S.A. to Yugoslavia or to that which was under consideration.

21 Feb.—*Indo China*. The Government's decision to recognize Ho Chi-minh was announced.

25 Feb.—Mr Heath, the U.S. Minister in Sofia, told the press in Belgrade on his journey home to Washington, that the 'flimsily contrived trials' in some of the Cominform countries were so much



propaganda designed to show that the countries were menaced by war-mongering capitalists, and that the Communist Governments could impose their will on the missions of Western Powers. Three facts stood out in the Bulgarian trials involving the U.S. Legation: The evidence was built on lies and obtained by coercion; the charges were never proved, and in many cases, disproved; the evidence, if true, constituted neither spying on the part of the defendants nor espionage on the part of the mission or Legation. He thought that one of the chief reasons for these attempts to besmirch the U.S.A. and other democratic Governments was that the vast majority of the Bulgarian people were opposed to their authoritarian Government and looked with sympathy to the western democracies.

26 Feb.—Marshal Tito, speaking to the third Congress of the People's Front of Serbia in Belgrade, confirmed that no former Opposition parties would be allowed to take part in the General Election.

*Trieste.* In a speech at Maribor, Mr Kardelj, Foreign Minister, said that Yugoslavia would never agree to the return to Italy of any part of the Free Territory of Trieste that was inhabited by Slovenes.

1 Mar.—U.S. loan (*see United States*).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| Mar.  | —  | Meeting of Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe.                        |
| "     | 12 | Belgian referendum on return of King Leopold.                                  |
| "     | 12 | General Election, U.S.S.R.   |
| "     | 13 | Meeting of International Wheat Council, London.                                |
| "     | 14 | I.R.O. General Council, fifth session, Geneva.                                 |
| "     | 20 | International Tin Study Group, fifth session, Paris.                           |
| "     | 20 | Special session of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, Washington. |
| "     | 26 | General Election, Yugoslavia.  |
| Apr.  | —  | Meeting of the Council of the O.E.E.C.   |
| May   | —  | F.A.O. Council, Eighth Session, Rome.  |
| "     | 8  | World Health Assembly, Geneva.   |
| "     | 22 | UNESCO, General Conference, Fifth Session, Florence.                           |
| July  | 17 | Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.                    |
| Sept. | 28 | International Tariff Negotiations, Torquay.                                    |